



Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm

Christmas Safety Tips

Christmas Tree Safety

Consider an artificial tree (they are much safer and cleaner.)



A real tree should not lose needles when you tap it on the ground. Cut 2 inch off the trunk to help absorb water. Leave the tree outside until ready to decorate. The stand should hold at least 1 gallon of water. A 6' tree will use 1 gallon of water every two days. Check the water level every day. Secure the tree with wire to keep it from tipping. Keep tree away from floor heaters, fireplaces, or other heat sources. Use only UL-approved lights, and no more than 3 strands linked together. Use miniature lights - which have cool-burning bulbs. Turn off the Christmas lights when you sleep, or if

you leave your home. Never use candles, even on artificial trees. Clean the tree stand to improve the tree's water intake, use one cupful of bleach to a cup of water. Dispose of the tree properly.

NEVER BURN THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE FIREPLACE

Home Safety

Install a smoke detector or new batteries and TEST. Use only outdoor lights outside your home. Examine light strings each year, discard worn ones. Fasten the bulbs securely and point the sockets down to avoid moisture build up. Connect no more than three strands together. Never use indoor extension cords outside. Avoid overloading wall outlets and extension cords. Keep outdoor electrical connectors above ground and out of puddles and snow.

Unplug light string before replacing a bulb. Review the original package to verify proper wattage and voltage. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree, use colored spotlights. Make sure trees hung with Christmas lights are not touching power lines. When using candles, place them a safe distance from combustibles. Place candles in sturdy containers. Remember, hot wax burns kids. Extinguish candles prior to going to bed. Dispose of fireplace ashes into a metal container until cold. After parties, check around and under sofa and chair cushions for smoldering cigarettes. Provide lots of ashtrays. Install at least one carbon monoxide detector in your home. Have an operable fire extinguisher readily available.

"Safety" gift ideas

Put together a gift basket containing one or more of the following items:

Smoke detectors and batteries. A quality fire extinguisher. A flashlight and batteries or light sticks. A first aid kit. A Carbon Monoxide detector. A mobile phone. A second floor escape ladder. "Emergency kit"- energy bars, water, battery radio, flashlight/light sticks and a first-aid kit packed in a small travel bag.